

Objectives Web-a-thon

Manage a Sustainable California Delta

July 9, 2013



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013 SUSTAINABLE DELTA OBJECTIVE 9:30 – 11:00 A.M. 815 S STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA

Meeting Objectives

Discuss and suggest revisions for the Related Actions associated with the Update 2013 Objective relating to the California Delta:

“Manage the Delta as both a critically important hub of the California water system and as California’s most valuable estuary and wetland ecosystem. Achieve the two co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The co-equal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protect, maintains, and, where possible, enhances and restores the overall quality of the Delta environment, including, but not limited to, Delta culture, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities and improves the Delta’s flood protection to ensure an increased level of public health and safety.”

Document Walk Through

Carl Lischeske, Lead Engineer, Delta Stewardship Council (DSC), reviewed the Sustainable Delta Objective. During the June 14th session, there was an extended discussion on whether the proposed language rewrote the co-equal goals. We do not think the language does that, and that it is not necessary to restate the co-equal goals verbatim. We then addressed Related Action #2 and worked through aspect #h.

General Discussion

- If it were necessary, it is possible to use the statutory language.
- Part of the tension arises from the way that the objective and related actions are structured.
- It might be worth noting, in a paragraph, how recommendations from other plans are used in creating the objectives and related actions. These are not directives.
- In Volume 1, the Water Plan discusses the 37 Companion Plans that were used in developing the content of Update 2013. Each objective will include some introductory text, which will note the relationship to other plans. Items in the Water Plan cannot be enacted unless the legislature or Governor takes action.



Related Actions

The proposed Related Actions, and the ensuing discussion, are presented below. Please note that the actions below have been abridged from the original text and the sub-actions are not included:

1. State or local public agencies undertaking covered actions must file certifications of consistency with the Delta Stewardship Council, which must include detailed findings that demonstrate how the covered action is consistent with all policies of the Delta Plan.

Discussion:

- No comments.
2. Provide a more reliable water supply for California by implementing the following:
Item #a: All water suppliers should fully implement applicable water efficiency and water management laws. Item #b: The State Water Board should evaluate water rights applications, that increase use of water in the Delta, for consistency with reasonable and beneficial use. Item #c: Develop guidelines for a water reliability element, in various water supply plans, that describes efforts for water conservation and supply development. Item #d: Establish an advisory group to reduce impediments to statewide water conservation, recycled water, and stormwater goals by 2014. Item #e: Revise grant and loan criteria to provide a priority for an expanded water supply reliability element. Item #f: Complete the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and environmental report/statement. Item #g: Upon adoption, implement the BDCP conservation measures. Item #h: Develop a coordinated statewide system for water use reporting. Item #i: The Water Plan should include information to track Delta Plan water supply reliability performance measures. Item #j: Provide technical and financial assistance to improve surface and groundwater monitoring and data management.

Discussion:

- #H: This also relates to other objectives (2.5, 10.9 and 11.1d) which address water use reporting, from different perspectives. Water use reporting can be used to demonstrate reduced reliance on the Delta, it also ties back to WUE. There is similar language, but not parallel language. It's not clear how to do it. Sometimes different pieces of text calls out different agencies.
- #H: In this recommendation, it is important keep the language that covers those who will use, export or transport water from or through the Delta.
- The Delta Plan leverages policy and creates policy. This section needs to be worked through with the other sections. The purpose or reducing reliance on the Delta is not here. Performance measures would reflect implementation.
- Another way to manage, that may change the status.

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- #J – Providing financial incentives to improve water monitoring.
 - A performance measure may be support for funding. Is there a baseline regarding the current and past levels of funding? These monitoring programs are effective and need.
 - Does financial assistance include grants? If so, that should be said. If other sources of funding are being considered, then the language should stand. There are many sources that could be used.
 - The “immediately provide” – implies a higher priority than other things.
 - The action is trying to support and leverage existing programs to voluntarily obtain additional local information. The goal is to maintain existing programs. Explain how this specifically relates to the Delta.
 - Look at whether new information is needed, or perhaps better data management, rather than additional funding. There needs to be a larger conversation about monitoring.
 - Consider making Related Action #2 more Delta-centric, or move it further down. Conversely, the DSC does not see this as a Delta-centric action. Rather, increasing statewide water supply reliability reduces reliance on the Delta.
- There needs to be a better synthesis of how to bring in recommendations from other documents. There needs to be an IWM filter that pulls information together at a higher level.
 - Statewide efforts will assist with the Delta. For the general reader, that connection may not be obvious. Explain why this is important for the Delta.
 - Consider generalizing the text on the Delta (make it “Water Plannish”), while staying true to the source document. This action needs to speak to the whole state, and the role of the Delta and water reliability. It can’t stand alone. Align these silos of governance to talk about how the parts fit together.
 - Conversely, the Water Plan may well represent the place to bring in the different pieces of different plans, without reconciling them. The Water Plan is not an appeals court.
 - This represents the initial cut at recommendations pulled from the 37 State plans. Synthesizing or consolidating the recommendation might be helpful.
 - Think about categorizing the cross-cutting recommendations that link to the other concepts. Everything related to water is connected.
 - Modifying some select words is probably adequate.

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3. Water quality in the Delta should be maintained at a level that supports, enhances, and protects beneficial uses identified in the applicable water quality control plans.

Item # A: Update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan for flow objectives. Item #b: Develop and implement a Delta Regional Monitoring Program. Item #c: Address non-native invasive species.

Discussion:

- Under first bullet (a, 1), it says adopt and implement. There was a footnote to this item, which says the implementation is unlikely. In the second one, it says as soon as reasonably possible. Consider adding that language to a,1.
 - Items #b and c: Incorporate a reference to the Delta Science Program. Work with them and engage them to see what they have to say. Clarify 3, c to say what this addresses (management, control). Need to list striped bass as a non-native species.
 - FLAG: Ask Boating and Waterways and DFW about this item on non-native species.
 - Rewrite paragraph 3, so that the remaining items are the performance measures.
 - Some of the monitoring efforts outside the Delta – there are some specific costs with some of these recommendations. What is the strategy for estimating the cost of what we're asking for? (Response: The finance section will be addressing costs of implementation.)
 - FLAG: Bring up item 3 monitoring costs in the Finance Section.
4. The Department of Fish and Wildlife, with other agencies, should encourage habitat enhancement and wildlife-friendly farming systems on agricultural lands.

Discussion:

- Consider adding non-governmental organizations, which bring knowledge, resources and expertise. Perhaps say, “coordinate and partner with NGOs.”
 - For example, the Farm Bureau.
 - Add language that says: “... DFW, with other agencies, *together with the CDFG, Dept. of Conservation and Resource Conservation Districts*, should encourage ...” The ability to achieve these outcomes will rest with RCDs.
5. The Delta Protection Commission should apply for designation of the Delta and Suisun Marsh as a National Heritage Area, and the federal government should complete the process in a timely manner.

Item #a: Expand wildlife viewing, angling and hunting opportunities.

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Discussion:

- This is a hold-over. The DPC has already submitted the application. It emphasizes the importance of Delta as place.
 - Action Five is different from item 5, a. Might want to say that the State should support should support the legislation.
6. By January 1, 2013, responsible local, State and federal agencies with emergency response authority should consider and implement the recommendations of the Delta Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force, in support of a Delta regional response system.
- Item #a: Expand emergency stockpiles and “over-reinforce” west Delta levees. Item #b: Local levee maintaining agencies should consider developing their own emergency action plans, and stockpile rock and flood-fighting materials. Item #c: Coordinate emergency response plans to protect infrastructure from long-term outages. Procedures should also protect Delta land use and the ecosystem.

Discussion:

- The goal was to put the recommendations of the Multi-Hazard task force in the context of the Water Plan, especially since DWR does so much of the groundwork for emergency response and flood in the Delta.
 - Item #A: The concept has support. There is local controversy over where the stockpile would occur.
 - Consider saying “bolster emergency response.” Don’t provide this level of detail. Much of the language for this objective is specific, compared to other objectives. Might want to generally state the objectives and actions, referring to the source document where the details are contained.
 - Items 6, b and c need to be brought forward and said.
 - A performance measure for 6, b could be the number of local plans developed.
 - Compare Delta action 5, a with 3, b of Objective 14.
7. The legislature should take actions to reduce flood risk in the Delta.
- Item #a: Create a Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District with fee assessment authority, to provide flood control and emergency response for the region. Item #b: The Central Valley Flood Protection Board should evaluate areas in, and upstream of, the Delta for designation as floodways – with consideration of climate change effects. Item #c: Evaluate and implement a bypass and floodway on the San Joaquin River near Paradise Cut. Item #d: Require adequate levels of flood insurance for all structures in floodprone areas.

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Discussion:

- This was prepared in consultation with CVFPB. The authority of the flood management districts is important. There are beneficiaries of flood protection in the Delta who are not paying towards protection. Currently, the reclamation districts can only assess landowners. This also identifies other floodways.
- 7, a: The DPC has just approved a scope or study of this. The agencies who are getting the final report should be involved in evaluating the scope, not the legislature.
- FLAG: 7, b: If you are looking to expand the jurisdiction of the Flood Board, state that explicitly.
 - Perhaps say there is a need for designated floodways in the Delta. This avoids the discussion of jurisdiction.
- 7, c: Not sure we're ready to implement, until there is an evaluation. Doing this will involve CEQA and NEPA. The language seems to pre-determine an outcome.
- Paradise Cut comes up in Objective 6, action #3 in the second bullet. The broader concern is that this is an example of intricate parallelism. There is enough tension, between the two items, that someone needs to reconcile this into a statewide perspective. There are specific details that need to be reconciled across all objectives and related actions.
 - This does need to be coordinated and, yes, there are policy implications.
- The Delta flood discussion (action 7) is still being characterized separately from the IFM concept. (E.g. integrated with ecosystem restoration.) The flood conversation function is still uniquely flood. Objective 6 (IFM) is striving to broaden the discussion towards an IWM perspective – Objective 7, less so.
- Say: “Reduce the risk of significant flood impacts” in the first line.
- Regarding flood insurance pricing mechanisms, perhaps a refusal to subsidize risk should be the point of this flood section.



Attendance

In Room

Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies
Carl Lischeske, Delta Stewardship Council
Valerie Nera, California Chamber of Commerce
Kevan Samsam, Delta Stewardship Council
Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition
Greg Zlotnick, State and Federal Water Contractors

Jose Alarcon, DWR, Water Quality Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management
Paul Massera, DWR, Water Plan Program Manager
Lewis Moeller, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead
Terri Wegener, DWR, Manager, Statewide Flood Management

Lisa Beutler, MWH, Water Plan Executive Facilitator
Judie Talbot, CCP, Facilitator

Webinar

Karen Buhr, California Assn. of Resource Conservation Districts
Brian Campbell, East Bay Municipal Utilities District
Ron Davis, Burbank Power and Water
Bruce Gwynne, Department of Conservation
Carol Hall, Kleinfelder
David Kennedy, American Council of Engineering Companies
Glenn Knapp, City of Fresno
Debbie Liebersbach, Turlock Irrigation District
Karl Longley, California Water Institute, UC Fresno
Kathy Mannion, Regional Council of Rural Counties
Cynthia Naha, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria
Bob Siegfried, Carmel Area Wastewater District
Ron Sprague, County Planners Association
Eric Thorburn, Oakdale Irrigation
Iovanka Todd, Floodplain Management Association
Bori Touray, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Marsha Westropp, Orange County Water District

Abby Carevic, DWR
Dan McManus, DWR
Toni Pezzetti, DWR